

Mr. HARKIN. I will work with my colleague Senator SPECTER, the ranking member of the subcommittee, to urge the National Cancer Institute to make this matter a high priority. Does the Senator agree?

Mr. SPECTER. Yes, I will support that effort.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank both managers of this bill for their willingness to work with me on this important issue.

I thank the Chair. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3221

Mr. REID. Madam President, I had indicated earlier today that I was going to move to go to conference. The record should reflect that Speaker PELOSI and I have talked about this matter and we think it would be appropriate to go to conference. It is my understanding we are close to being able to do that. That would be good.

This is a bill that needs to be done and can only be done if Democrats and Republicans agree. The majority of us in this body are Democrats, but it is a slim majority. So everything we do, I need to get 20 percent of the Republicans to move forward on legislation. Hopefully, we can do that and have a real good conference on this matter.

As I indicated this morning, there are a number of issues that are important: A renewable portfolio; it is important we do something about CAFE; It is also important we do something about taxes so we can have the great entrepreneurs of America have the ability to invest in renewable energy. Right now the ability to do that is very limited because we have only given them a year, 2 sometimes with the tax credits, and they can't plan ahead for that. So those are the three things we need to work on.

There is much more, but that gives us an idea of what we need to focus on, and it is not easy because the House did not have CAFE, we did not have the renewable portfolio. So it is going to take some mathematical moving around to get this done because we need to work it out, I would hope, so we can do CAFE in both bodies and renewables in both bodies. Anyway, we need to give this a valiant try, and that is what conferences are all about.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 340, H.R. 3221, the House Energy bill; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of the Senate engrossed amendment to H.R. 6 be inserted in

lieu thereof; that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees and that the title amendment at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I had talked to the majority leader before he propounded the unanimous consent proposal. As we have discussed, we are trying to clear any objections on our side. Given the fact it is Friday and Members are traveling, we are having a few difficulties doing that. But it is my hope we can continue to work through it and resolve those so the unanimous consent request can proceed without any objection.

At this point, because of those challenges we have, while we are continuing to work in good faith to resolve them, I must respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have had a good couple of months here in the Senate. We have accomplished a lot, working together. Hopefully, on this momentous piece of legislation, we can continue to do that.

As I indicated this morning, we had a number of conversations yesterday, Republican Senators that want to move this forward, and I think there is a real possibility we can get a conference and move forward on this and come up with legislation where this body agrees with the House as to how to proceed.

I understand that is the case, and I understand why the junior Senator from Texas had to object. It is Friday afternoon. Hopefully, maybe next week, we can appoint conferees and move forward.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR KLOBUCHAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, the current Presiding Officer joins a very elite group of freshman Members who have achieved the distinction of presiding in the Senate for over 100 hours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I am so happy to announce that Senator KLOBUCHAR achieved this distinction today an hour and 5 minutes ago. I congratulate her. I am embarrassed to say that as a freshman, we had a large freshman class, but I didn't preside for this long. I thought I was here all the time. It is really quite a nice award. It is something one can keep forever. We have gone to some length to make sure it looks good. For the time that I presided over the Senate as a freshman, I really learned a lot. One learns Senate procedures, different personalities of Senators who come to the floor.

The Senator from Minnesota is to be commended. She takes good care of her State. She goes back often. She has a wonderful family. She does it all. She sets a great example for the rest of the people in America, but especially she has added so much to the Senate.

When I first came here, the woman was MIKULSKI. The woman still is MIKULSKI, but she has a lot of people to help her now. The Senate is a much better place with more women. Someday—it won't be in the immediate future but not in the distant future—we will have a body that will have an equal number of women as men. When that happens, the Senate will be a better place. Congratulations.

THE PASSING OF MAYER "BUBBA" MITCHELL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to share with my colleagues the sad news that Mayer "Bubba" Mitchell, a great American and a great humanitarian, passed away on September 26, 2007.

I was lucky to know Mayer for many years. He was a successful businessman from Alabama, a philanthropist who supported groundbreaking cancer research and a strong voice here in the Halls of Congress. An advocate for a strong friendship between the United States and Israel, Mayer served a term as president of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, and he impressed all who met him with his clear and passionate convictions.

I had the honor of attending Mayer's memorial service last month, in the USA Mitchell Center at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL. I heard many moving tributes from many distinguished guests. But there was one that stood out to me above the rest, so much so that I wish to share it with my fellow Senators.

My good friend Howard Kohr, the executive director of AIPAC, delivered the following remarks at Mayer's memorial service. Howard so aptly described the man we had all come to know and love that I would like to ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD his words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: